THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A line is already operational between Anuppur and Bishrampur. Construction of a new line from Bishrampur to Ambikapur has been sanctioned and Final Location Survey has been taken up. This will be followed by land acquisition and work will be started as soon as land become available. An outlay of Rs. 5.00 crore has been provided in the Budget 1999-2000, for this work. The work is expected to be completed in about 5 years' time, subject to availability of resources.

Constitution of Railway Safety Committee

1979. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the railway safety had not been reviewed for the past 20 years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a high level review committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of Justice H.R. Khanna, a retired Chief Justice;

(c) if so, the details in regard to terms and conditions of the committee and the subjects to be reviewed;

(d) whether suggestions have been invited from the public;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) by when the Committee is expected to submit its report to Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir. Review of Railway Safety is a continous and ongoing process.

(b) Yes, Sir. A Railway Safety Review Committee has been set up under the chairmanship of a retired judge of the Supreme Court Justice H.R. Khanna.

(c) The terms of reference entrusted to the Committee are as under:

(i) To review the position of accidents on the Indian Railways since the appointment of the Railway Accidents Inquiry Committee, 1968 and to review the implementation of the recommendations of all previous Accident Inquiry Committees;

(ii) To examine the adequacy of the existing organization, equipment and practices for ensuring safe running of trains on Indian Railways and to suggest measures for prevention of accidents;

(iii) Implication of financial investment planning of Railways projects on Safety; and

(iv) To examine safety measures/equipment/technology as adopted by Railways on some of the advanced countries, which would have relevance for Indian Railways and could also be adopted for use on Indian Railways.

(d) and (e) Suggestions for improving Railways Safety have been invited from the public through two notifications issued in all the leading national daily newspapers of the country.

(f) The tenure of the Committee is upto 3-2-2000. However, Interim report is proposed to be submitted in August, 1999.